

Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages – February 13, 2022

- Good morning.
- As everyone has likely seen, we have slow rolls and protests occurring in different parts of the country – from the East to West Coast.
- I won't go into detail on all of them, but will instead focus in on the following areas – Windsor and Ottawa, then Emerson, Coutts and BC.
- We'll start with Ontario and then make our way West.

Windsor

- The situation in Windsor is largely unchanged. The crowds have moved back and greatly reduced in number but there is still no movement.
- Enforcement started and a few arrests and vehicles were towed. All three areas have now been cleared.
- A request was made for additional RCMP members to secure the zones under police control. O Division is looking into this.
- There was a bomb threat last night, which turned out to be false.

Ottawa

- This morning, we were advised that the intersection of Sussex and Rideau has been fortified with tractor trucks parked tightly together. The mood of those at the intersection was described as defiant.

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- We are monitoring several convoys that are expected to arrive in Ottawa today.
- As of 6AM this morning, there are no protestors on Parliament Hill, and minimal foot traffic on Wellington Street and surrounding streets.

The Plan

- Now I will get into the plan. This was developed in partnership between the RCMP, OPS, OPP, and PPS. The ultimate responsibility for approving the plan is Chief Sloly.
- It has a phased approach, with the first goal being a reduction of protest footprint, including vehicles, trucks, and pedestrians.
- To attain that objective, the approach is a tried and tested crowd reduction technique, s.37
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- This plan includes significant cooperation, is scalable, measurable, with goals that are achievable. (SMART goals) It's a fluid plan that is to be monitored daily, and adjusted according to its successes or failures.
- It's a multifaceted plan. The largest component of it is on the ground messaging by regular uniformed officers (as in no tactical attire), aimed at changing the crowd's mentality and getting them to leave voluntarily. Note that this is what was used in Alberta, to get them from 200 trucks to 40.
- In addition to the key communication tactics, the daily goals will include things like determining the specific trucks with children, determining which trucks may be chained together, and setting goals of daily percentage decreases in protestors.

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- As each day progresses the tone and messaging will get progressively more serious. Stronger warnings of fines, arrests, and detention will be made.
- At some point, depending on the progress made on the daily goals, a decision will be made to initiate kinetic actions using our Emergency Response teams, or more commonly known as SWAT.
- If the teams are getting more pushback than success, the kinetic action will be needed sooner. If protesters are listening, leaving peacefully, with significantly assessed progression, we will allow each day's results to show for it, before taking that action.
- I will make it clear, there will, eventually be an ugly resolve to this. It is about minimizing the impact to public safety and taking our kinetic action when it is optimal and required.
- A key component is ensuring that all public interactions speak the same lines as the officers on the ground.
- Chief Sloly's daily messaging will be crafted depending on the progress and stage of the plan. It is very important that the Municipal, Provincial, and Federal governments also get the same messaging across to Canadians. This part of the plan is not specific to Ottawa, the communications strategy is to be used across all levels of policing throughout the country, so that the messaging is clear and consistent.
- This is how the plan also mitigates the risk of retaliation and outbreaks in different areas.
- We will need your support on this front. We need all levels of government to be echoing the same words publicly.

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- Now, in terms of our current numbers, the total daily shift numbers are for two shift rotations of officers deployed in support of the Ottawa Police Service. The RCMP has 225 members in the group, with the OPP currently at 233.
- For the Public Order Units, there is 33 Durham, 32 York, and 42 OPP members deployed.
- Also, the RCMP continues to have approximately 345 members deployed daily in support of our protective mandate.
- There will be a constant evolution of members on the ground as this plan progresses.

Moving from Ontario.

In terms of Emerson

- As of this morning, there is no significant change from yesterday – the blockade at the Emerson POE is still in place. The protest remains peaceful.
- Livestock trucks as well as emergency vehicles and CBSA employees are being through are being allowed through by the protestors.
- The focus today is to get a lane or lanes opened with a goal of ending the blockade.
- The protest group have been informed of potential charges that under the Criminal Code and provincial legislation. We are hearing that some of the group is tired and are getting concerned about their own farm equipment.
- A church service is planned at the protest site this morning (10am) and our Liaison Team plans to meet with the group following the service.
- All other POEs remain open.

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For Coutts

- The situation remains largely unchanged; Highway 4 remains completely blocked at the POE.
- The need for heavy equipment to clear the highway of vehicles remains an important part of any enforcement action.
- The Alberta Government is considering an injunction but no decision as of yet.

In terms of British Columbia

- Yesterday, “Freedom Convoy Protests” occurred in multiple locations across the province - primarily in Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Fort St. John and the Osoyoos and Surrey border crossings.
 - 3000-5000 vehicle convoys in the Lowermainland reached the 176th Street border crossing, a key economic crossing; the crowd estimate at the location was in the thousands but both the number of people and vehicles lessened significantly overnight. There were no arrests and no injury to police or to the public.
 - For Kelowna and Osoyoos – protests were largely peaceful with about 900 vehicles at the border area before most departed.
 - There were also protests at the BC Legislature on Vancouver Island but no major issues occurred. Victoria Police are the police of jurisdiction
- On the radar for today, there are small convoys expected in Barrier, BC, and Central Kootenay/Nelson areas. No numbers are yet known.

Emergencies Act

- We are actively engaged in the discussion on the implications of the Emergency Management Act and we are exploring what measures may be available from an operational perspective.

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Engagement Proposal

- I have been working with DM Stewart and policing partners on the engagement proposal and we are supportive.

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